

APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Amendments to Claims 4-6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15-23, 24 and 26.

4. (Amended) A security unit according to [any one of the preceding claims,] claim 3 further comprising a means to detect the sealing of the removable package before allowing access to the removable package.
5. (Amended) A security unit according to Claim 4 [when dependent upon Claim 3,] in which the means to detect the sealing of the removable package includes a means to detect current flow through the heat seal unit.
6. (Amended) A security unit according to [any one of the preceding claims,] claim 1 further comprising a lock (14) having a delay such that the access to the interior of the housing, and in particular to the removable package (7), is prevented for a predetermined period after an attempt is made to open the case.
8. (Amended) A security unit according to [any one of the preceding claims,] claim 1 further comprising a sensor associated with the sealing mechanism to verify that there are no items in the position where the removable package is to be sealed.
9. (Amended) A security unit according to [any one of the preceding claims,] claim 1 further comprising an identification and/or validation means (5) between the inlet of the housing and the removable package (7) for identifying and/or validating items which are introduced to the removable package (7).

12. (Amended) A security unit according [to any one of the preceding Claims,] claim 1 in which a sensor (43) detects the presence and/or the correct fitting of a removable package (7), and prevents the use of the unit unless a removable package (7) is present and/or fitted correctly.

13. (Amended) A gas feed conveying system for use in a secure unit [according to any one of the preceding claims,] the gas feed conveying system comprising a channel (8) through which items are to be conveyed and a pair of gas inlets provided on opposed sides of the channel (8) inclined at an angle to that in which the items are to be conveyed, and through which gas from outside the channel (8) is jetted to produce a gas flow through the channel (8) which entrains an item to convey this through the channel.

15. (Amended) A gas feed conveying system according to [any one of] Claim[s] 13 [or 14,] in which the channel (8) has a generally oval cross-sectional channel in a plane generally normal to that along which the items are conveyed.

16. (Amended) A gas feed conveying system according to [any one of] Claim[s] 13 [to 15,] in which the inlets are formed at an angle of about 45° to the direction in which items are conveyed through the channel (8).

17. (Amended) A gas feed conveying system according to [any one of] Claim[s] 13 [to 16,] in which the inlets are provided at the entrance of the channel (8), and are arranged such that the gas flows from the inlets converge towards the longitudinal central plane of the channel (8).

18. (Amended) A gas feed conveying system according to [any one of] Claim[s] 13 [to 16,] in which the inlets are formed by providing a hole though a dimple formed in the surface of the channel.

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19. (Amended) A gas feed conveying system according to [any one of] Claim[s] 13 [to 16,] in which the inlets comprise elongate slots extending substantially across the width of the channel.
20. (Amended) A gas feed conveying system according to [any one of] Claim[s] 13 [to 19,] in which the channel is formed of sheet material, such as metal, and in which the inlets are formed in the flat sheet which is then bent to form the channel.
21. (Amended) A gas feed conveying system according to [any one of] Claim[s] 13 [to 19,] in which the channel is formed from a plastics material.
22. (Amended) A gas feed system according to [any one of] Claim[s] 13 [to 21,] in which sensors are provided to detect the movement of items through the channel, and control means are provided to control the flow of gas through the inlets dependent upon the detection of movement of items through the channel.
23. (Amended) A secure unit according to [any one of] Claim[s] 1 [to 12,] further comprising [the] gas feed conveying system [of any one of Claims 13 to 22.] including a channel through which items are to be conveyed and a pair of gas inlets provided on opposites sides of the channel inclined at an angle to that in which the items are to be conveyed, and through which gas from outside the channel is jetted to produce a gas flow through the channel which entrains an item to convey this through the channel.
24. (Amended) A package for use in the secure unit according to [any one of] Claim[s] 1 [to 12 or Claim 23,] the package comprising a plastics container having an inlet opening for receiving items to be collected, a neck portion extending from the inlet opening, and a number of gas outlets remote from the inlet opening through which gas introduced into the inlet is vented.
26. (Amended) A package according to Claim 24 [or Claim 25], including fluid outlet

holes provided in the wall of the package towards the upper part of the package remote from the inlet to the package.

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